

Cochituate Branch.

A HISTORY OF THE BRANCH LIBRARY

In 1907, according to an account given in 1955 by Mr. John Connelly, former member of the Board of Library Trustees, Selectman Chester Williams of Cochituate, speaking at a meeting of the Men's Union of the Methodist Church, proposed the establishment of a Reading Room for Cochituate, and had the article included in the next Town Meeting Warrant. (This positive action cannot be said to have been a hasty step, since the issue of a Cochituate Reading Room had been debated, without success, since 1874.)

At a Town Meeting, said Mr. Connelly, "there was a tremendous row and violent remarks," with the opposition fearing that a project was afoot to move the entire library to Cochituate. Mr. Connelly declared repeatedly that it was only to be a branch reading room, and finally lost his temper, stating that if the town would not vote for the Reading Room he would insert an article in the next warrant recommending the moving of the whole library. This tactic won the day, and \$400.00 was voted to fund the project. The Trustees rented a room in "Gerald's Block" on Main Street in Cochituate. The collection, opened to the public on Friday and Saturday evenings, was supplied by the Main Library and books were conveyed back and forth by trolley cars. The Reading Room, or branch library, was moved in 1953 to its present home in the Cochituate Fire Station.

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